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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Berlin

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SUBJECT Crisis within the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)

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PAGES

ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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1. The recent arrests of CDU youth officials continue as a primary topic of public interest. Several sources agree that the arrests had a very disturbing effect on the population. It is the general opinion that the Russians have again demonstrated clearly how little regard they have for the usual processes of law, and the inhabitants of the Russian Sector of Berlin and the Russian Zone were further impressed with the lack of personal security prevailing in that part of Germany.
2. Since the arrested youths were with one exception all members of the CDU, it is not surprising that the arrests caused the greatest anxiety in CDU circles.
3. The arrests caused within CDU circles a disturbance which may be described as a major intra-party crisis. There are two definite schools of thought. The so-called left-wing of the CDU, consisting mostly of members of the Berlin CDU under the leadership of Landsberg, maintains that the entire incident of the student arrests was such a flagrant violation of agreements between the Russians and the CDU that the CDU should take an energetic stand in defense of its principles. It is conceded that such a stand may cause the Russians to revoke the CDU's license in the Soviet Zone. Landsberg and others are reported to favor that development, as the elimination of the CDU in the Eastern Zone would further demonstrate that a totalitarian regime is de facto in control.
4. The so-called right-wing of the CDU, under the leadership of Chairman Schreiber, is against making the case of the students an issue with the SMA. While Schreiber has expressed himself privately to the effect that he did not believe the Russian charges against these youths, he is against any action which might jeopardize the status of the CDU in the Russian Zone.
5. another point of major difference between Landsberg and Schreiber is the question of cooperating with the SPD in the Berlin City Administration. The former favors the present coalition, while the latter tries at present to high-pressure members of the Stadtag into adopting a straight line of opposition to the SPD regime. Feelings are tense, and Landsberg is seriously considering the idea of bolting the CDU for the SPD should Schreiber have his way.

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